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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/639,426	08/13/2003	Toshikuni Yoshida	116836	6335
25944	7590	11/15/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			GARCIA, GABRIEL I	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/639,426	YOSHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gabriel I. Garcia	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-10 and 12 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Walmsley (6,498,656).

With regard to claim 11, Mastie et al teaches a print distribution system (e.g. fig. 1) comprising: an association information holding unit that holds association information, the association information being adapted to associate information of a distribution destination with information of a printing apparatus (e.g. col. 2, lines 53-65 and col. 5, lines 45-67); a print setting management unit (6) that manages settings of a print condition (or attribute) of the printing apparatus, the print setting management unit (6) adapted to locate the printing apparatus based on the association information (feature or attribute) and set the print condition when a request to print out printed data is outputted to the distribution from a sender (e.g. col. 2, lines 53-65 and col. 5, lines 45-67), wherein the information of the distribution destination has information of a user who uses the printing apparatus associated by the association information holding unit (see figs 1-3).

Conclusion

2. Claims 1-10 and 12 are allowed. In contrast, according to the subject matter recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 12, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest an a print distribution system (in combination with other features in the claims) an holding unit that **holds in advance information** indicating correspondences between plural distribution destinations and plural printing apparatuses used in the plural printing apparatuses, and wherein, when a request to print out the printed data is outputted to the plural distribution destination from a sender, the print setting management unit, on the basis of information held in the associating holding unit, locates plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations specified by the sender, as recited by the independent claims.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wanda et al. (Wanda et al.) teaches an information processing apparatus distributed printing method and storage medium.

Leong et al. (6,687,018) teaches a system and method for distributing print jobs.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gabriel I. Garcia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7434. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. The fax phone number for this group is 571-273-8300.

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located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), and facsimile transmissions must be sent to the Central FAX number, unless an exception applies. For example, if the examiner has rejected claims in a regular U.S. patent application, and the reply to the examiner's Office action is desired to be transmitted by facsimile rather than mailed, the reply must be sent to the Central FAX Number.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (**PAIR**) system Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private **PAIR** or Public **PAIR**. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private **PAIR** only. For more information about the **PAIR** system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private **PAIR** system, contact the Electronic Business Center (**EBC**) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gabriel I. Garcia
Primary Examiner
November 6, 2006

Gabriel Garcia
GABRIEL I. GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER